HIS

MAJESTIES

GRACIOUS

LETTER

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND:

With

The Speeches of the Lord High Commissioner, and the Lord High Chancellor; togerher with the Parliaments Answer to His MAJESTIES Letter.

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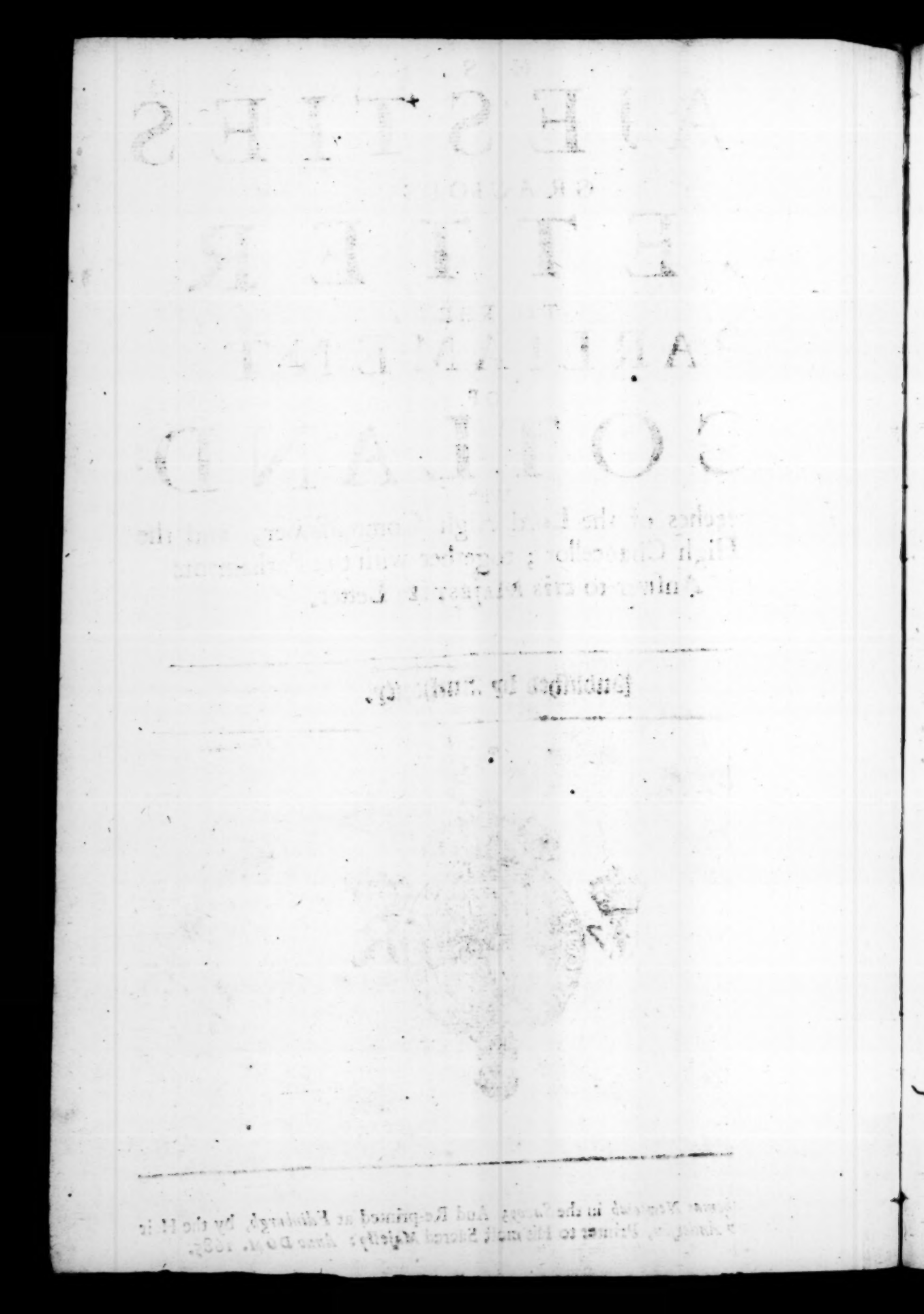

His MAJESTIES *Gracious Letter to the Parliament of* Scotland, *with the Speeches of the Lord High Commissioner, and Lord High Chancellor; Together with the Parliaments Answer to His* MAJESTIES *Letter.*

JAMES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE many Experiences We have had of the Loyalty and Exemplary Forwardness of that our Ancient Kingdom, by their Representatives in Parliament Assembled, in the Reign of our dearest and most entirely beloved Brother of ever Blessed Memory, made us desirous to call you at this Time in the beginning of Our Reign, to give you an opportunity not only of shewing your Duty to Us in the same manner, but likewise of being Exemplary to others in your Demonstrations of Affection to Our Person, and compliance with Our desires, as you have most eminently been in Times past, to a degree never to be forgotten by Us, nor (We hope) to be contradicted by your future Practices.. That which We are at this Time to propose unto you, is, what is as necessary for your Safety as Our Service, and what has a tendency more to secure your own Priviledges and Properties, than the Aggrandising our Power and Authority (though in it consists the greatest Security of your Rights and Interests, these never having been in danger except when the Royal Power was brought too low to protect them) which now We are resolved to maintain in its greatest Lustre, to the end we may be the more enabled to Defend and Protect your Religion as Established by Law, and your Rights and Properties (which was Our Design in calling this Parliament) against Phanatical Contrivances, Murderers and Assassins, who having no fear of God more than Honour for Us, have brought you into such difficulties as only the Blessing of God upon the steddy Resolutions and Actings of Our said dearest Royal Brother, and those employed by Him, (in Prosecution of the good and wholsome Laws by you heretofore offered) could have saved you from the most horrid Confusions and Inevitable Ruin. Nothing has been left unattempted by those wild and inhumane Traitors for endeavouring to overturn your Peace: And therefore We have good Reason to hope, that nothing will be wanting in you to secure your selves and Us from their outrages and violence in time coming, and to take care that such Conspirators meet with their just deservings, so as others may thereby be deterred from Courses so little agreeable to Religion, or their Duty and Allegiance to Us. These things We considered to be of so great importance to Our Royal, as well as the Universal interest of that Our Kingdom, that We were fully resolved in Person to have proposed the needful Remedies to you, but things having so fallen out as render this impossible for us; We have now thought fit to send our Right Trusty and Right entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellour *William* Duke of *Queensberry* to be Our Commissioner amongst you; of whose Abilities and Qualifications We have Reason to be fully satisfied, and of whose Faithfulness to Us, and Zeal for Our Interest we have had Signal Proofs in the Times of Our greatest difficulties. Him We have fully intrusted in all Things Relating to Our Service, and your own Prosperity and Happiness, and therefore you are to give him intire Trust and Credit as you now see We have done; From whose Prudence and your most Dutiful Affection to Us We have full Confidence of your entire Compliance and Assistance in all those Matters wherein he is instructed as aforesaid. We do therefore not only recommend unto you, that such things be done as are necessary in this Juncture for your own Peace, and the support of Our Royal Interest, both at home and abroad, but also that you do them so speedily as may Evidence to the World that you are still in the same manner addicted to the Royal Interest, of which we had so much Experience when amongst you, that we cannot doubt of your full and ample Expressing the same on this occasion; by which the great concern We have in you Our Ancient and Kindly People may still increase, and you may transmit your Loyal Actions (as Examples

of Duty) to your Poſterity. In full Confidence whereof We do aſſure you of Our Royal Favour and Protection in all your concerns. And ſo We bid you Heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, *the* 28th *day of* March, 1685. *and of Our Reign the firſt Year.*

By His *Majeſties* Command,
DRUMMOND.

The Speech of the Lord High Commiſſioner.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIs Majeſty has been pleaſed ſo fully and obligingly by the Letter you have now heard to intimate his Royal pleaſure to you, as what I am to ſay ſeems in a manner ſuperfluous, ſo I need not take up much of your time, nor ſhall I do more than touch a few things as briefly as is poſſible.

And in the firſt place, my Lords, This being the day of His Majeſties Coronation in our Neighbouring Kingdom, you ſee he is no ſooner placed on the Throne of his Royal Anceſtors than he inclines to have your advice in what may import the good of his Service and Subjects here; By which you ought not only to be convinced of the great confidence His Majeſty has in the Loyalty of this his Ancient Kingdom, and their good Example to his other Dominions, but alſo how fully he makes good his Royal Word and Declaration, to follow (in his Reign) the Example of his late Majeſty of ever glorious Memory under whoſe Protection and Government we enjoyed ſo long Peace and Quiet; I ſay (my Lords) as by calling you ſo ſoon, His Majeſty expreſſes great confidence in you, and ſeems ſtill mindful of the Zeal and Affection of the laſt Parliament for the Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, ſo (in a due return) it is not to be doubted, but you will upon this occaſion not only exceed what has been formerly done, but alſo comply with all that can be propoſed for eſtabliſhing His Majeſties Greatneſs and your own Security, and by this convince the World how ſenſible you are of the great honour His Majeſty has allowed you of being the firſt Parliament of his Dominions to do ſo.

I am in the next place to tell you, that His Majeſty is very mindful of the Duty and Loyalty of this Kingdom to his late Majeſty and himſelf, when he was here amongſt us: And the better to compoſe the minds of his faithful Subjects, I am allowed to aſſure you of his Princely Reſolutions to protect and maintain the Religion and Government of this Church as they are now Eſtabliſhed by Law, and that he will take the Perſons and Concerns of the Regular Clergy into his ſpecial Care and Protection; And in order thereunto, I am to give the Royal Aſſent to ſuch Laws and Acts as can be reaſonably propoſed.

I am likewiſe to let you know, That His Majeſty will concernedly maintain your juſt Rights and Properties according to the Eſtabliſhed Laws of this Kingdom, and will not allow of oppreſſive Arbitrary Proceedings in Souldiers or others. And further His Majeſty being ſenſible of the great decay of our Trade, has warranted me in His Royal Name to conſent to ſuch Laws as can reaſonably be propoſed for recovery and improvement thereof.

And, my Lords, to conclude what I am to ſay on this Subject, His Majeſty is ſo concerned in the Encouragement, Welfare and Proſperity of this his Ancient Kingdom, as He will not only do what can juſtly be deſired or expected for theſe ends, but even in Buſineſs of the Exciſe and Militia (his immediat concerns) I am warranted to go the greateſt lengths for your eaſe and conveniency that the nature of theſe things can bear, and His Majeſties Service and your own Security will allow.

And, my Lords, His Majeſty having in all things ſo evidently diſcovered his gracious inclinations for the good of this Kingdom, and given us the fulleſt aſſurances of his Favour and Protection that our hearts can deſire, what ſuitable Returns and Acknowledgments can we make to ſo excellent and incomparable a Prince, who in all things relating to our quiet and proſperity prevents our very deſires; So if during his Reign (which I pray God to make long and glorious) we be not the happieſt people in the World, we have only our ſelves to blame.

And

And now the King having ſo fully done his part, it concerns you in the next place to mind yours; And in order thereunto, I make no doubt but you will aſſert the Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown, and eſtabliſh the Revenue as amply upon His Majeſty and his Lawful Succeſſors as it was enjoyed by the late King or any of his Royal Predeceſſors, ſince you cannot (in the leaſt) doubt but his Royal care for your repoſe and ſecurity will rather exceed than fall ſhort of any of his Anceſtors. But to uſe any further Arguments to incite you to what is ſo much your Duty and Intereſt, were at the ſame time to queſtion your Loyalty and Zeal for His Majeſties Service, and your concern for the intereſt and honour of your Native-Country whoſe Repreſentatives you are, ſo I ſhall not injure you, nor leſſen your thanks by ſaying more upon this Subject.

My Lords, His Majeſty certainly expects from the Prudence and Loyalty of this Parliament, that effectual ways will be fallen upon for deſtroying that deſperate Phanatical and irreclaimable Party who have brought us to the brink of Ruine and Diſgrace, and are no more Rebels againſt the King than Enemies of Mankind; Wretches of ſuch Monſtrous Principles and Practices as paſt Ages never heard, nor thoſe to come will hardly believe: What Indemnities and Acts of Grace and Clemency have they not Contemned? And all the uſe they made of them has ſtill been to harden and confirm them in their execrable Villanies; and how inconſiderable ſoever they appear, aſſure your ſelves they ought not abſolutely to be contemned; for if they had not ſupport and correſpondence not yet diſcovered, it is not to be ſuppoſed they could have ſo long eſcaped the care and vigilance of the Government: It therefore concerns you both in Honor and Prudence, no longer to dally with them, but that the utmoſt ſeverities be moſt effectually applied, and all wayes taken, both to find out their Favourers and retired and ſecret Haunts.

My Lords, I doubt not but all of you ſufficiently know that ſome of our Nation are deeply involved in the late Horrid Conſpiracy, who (and ſome others for other Treaſonable Crimes and Practices) are to be proceeded againſt before this Parliament; The Evidence of their Guilt I ſhall leave to its proper Place and Time, and do not doubt but His Majeſties Advocate will manage that weighty matter with ſuitable care and faithfulneſs: So all I ſhall further ſay upon this Subject at preſent is, that if Almighty God (who watches over the ſecurity of Princes) had not Miraculouſly Diſcovered and diſappointed thoſe the moſt Helliſh and Barbarous Deſigns that were ever contrived, in Place of that Peace, Happineſs, and Tranquillity which we now Enjoy, theſe Kingdoms had certainly been at this day a Sea of Blood and in all imaginable Miſery and Deſolation; which (being evident beyond denial) will certainly provoke your and all good Mens Indignation and Reſentment againſt thoſe who can be reached, not only as Adviſers and Contrivers of ſuch Villanies, but Concealers of them: And ſince our Honour and Security every way ſeems abſolutely bound up in the Life of His Sacred Majeſty, ought we not moſt cheerfully to grant what the Exigencies of His mild and gentle Government requires? Eſpecially ſeeing what we give is ſtill beſtowed upon our ſelves, and for maintaining us in our juſt Rights and Poſſeſſions, againſt the moſt cruel and Barbarous Deſigns of His and our Enemes.

And now my Lords and Gentlemen, in the laſt place touching my ſelf I ſhall not ſay much, my unfitneſs for this Eminent ſtation is poſſibly more obvious to me than to any of you; however ſince His Majeſty has been Graciouſly pleaſed to place me in it, I am reſolved to ſerve him boldly and firmly, and thereby labour to make up my other great defects: And as this has ſtill been my Practice in the other great Truſts I have the Honour to carry under His Majeſty, ſo I know His Goodneſs will always accept the ſincere endeavors of His Servants in place of greater Performances.

The Lord High Chancellor's Speech.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

AFter what my Lord Commiſſioner hath ſo well repreſented to you, it will be very little neceſſary for me to ſay much.

I ſhall only take the liberty to put you in mind, (of what I believe you are very ſen-

 ſible

sible already) of the many obligations this Nation lies under to be grateful to our great Monarch.

When by the Command of the late King, His Majesty who now Reigns came first hither, what Disorders, Divisions, and Animosities found He amongst us? To bring the state of things into your prospect as it was then, could not be very grateful to you, nor pleasing to me, but we all remember with joy how well He left us, and by what easie gentle ways He brought about the Establishment of that Unity, which we were beginning to despair of.

Since that time, how much we have been in His particular care, during the Happy Reign of that Excellent Prince His Brother, of ever Blessed and Glorious Memory, is known to all the World.

But of all the instances of His Majesties Care for us, his Favour towards us, and his good Opinion of us, this of His calling us together in the very beginning of his Reign, (which God grant may be long and prosperous) that we might have the opportunity of presenting Him with the first Fruits of the Service of His Parliaments, and of becoming Exemples to His other Dominions, is the greatest and what we should prize the most, improving it as far as it will go.

When we consider what strange turns the extravagant Follies of some, and the malicious deviliſh Contrivances of others among us have taken, since the last Meeting of Parliament, what Convulsions have Attacted the Body of this Nation, and how vile a Ferment has raged in it, to have our Advice called for by our Prince, how to provide proper Remedies for it, is the greatest Honour could be put upon us.

That we may do what in Duty we are bound in return, let us lay aside all private Aims and Ends; for how can we hope to serve His Majesty, or promote the Interest of the Nation, while our Eye is directed only towards our own particular? and let us with the Frankness and Cheerfulness of honest *SCOTSMEN*, use all possible means for Uniting of the Nation, and the driving from amongst us, whoever will not joyn with us upon such Terms, as may conduce to the Advancement of the Honour and Interest of our King and His Crown, and the Well-being of this our Native Countrey, which we should not suffer to be defiled and rendred contemptible to the whole World by entertaining so Venemous a Bastardly brood of villanous men, as have of late, to the reproach of *Scotland*, and of Humane Nature it self, maintained Principles, and ventured upon Practices not to be named amongst any who have ever heard of a Government, much less of Religion.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

You all know what a Conspiracy hath been entered into by ill men of both Kingdoms, against the Sacred Lives of the late King and his present Majestie; and who but incarnate Devils could think of attempting any thing against such precious Lives? For what Prince in *Europ*, or the whole World, was ever like the late King, except His Glorious Brother who now Reigns? and to have cut off any of them, had been barbarous to a degree of making us appear more abominable then any people ever were, but for us to have lost both, had been our utter ruine. Yet against both was the design laid, and had succeeded, if that watchful Providence, which hath often preserved the two Royal Brothers in so many difficulties, had not defeated the success, by an un-fore-seen accident, and had it succeeded, what Confusion, what Cruelty, what Blood, what un-expressible Misery had overflowed these Kingdoms?

But besides this, we have a new Sect sprung up amongst us from the dunghil, the very dregs of the people, who kill by pretended Inspiration, and in stead of *The Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord*, have nothing in their mouths but *The Word of God*, wresting that blessed conveyance of his Holy Will to us, to justifie a practice suggested to them by him who was a Murtherer from the beginning, who having modelled themselves into a Common-wealth, (whose Idol is that accursed paper the Covenant, and whose only Rule is to have none at all) have proceeded to declare themselves no longer His Majesties Subjects, to forefeit all of us who have the honour to serve him in any considerable station, and will be sure ere long to do so by this great and honourable

Court,

Court. It is how to rid our ſelves of theſe men, and of all who incline to their Princ ples, that we are to offer to His Majeſty, our Advice, Concurrence, and utmoſt Aſſiſ ance. *T*heſe Monſters bring a publick reproach upon the Nation in the eyes of all ou Neighbours abroad, while in their Gazets we are mentioned as acting the vileſt Aſſaſſ nations, and the horrideſt Villanies; they render us unquiet and unſecure at hom they bring Reproach upon our Religion, and are our great plague.

Let us for the ſake of our Allegiance, for His Majeſties Honour, for our Reputatio abroad, for the vindication of our Religion, and for our own Peace and Tranquillity make haſte to get our ſelves cured of it.

If this were once effectuated, we might yet hope for quiet, and in order to the mak ing our quiet the more comfortable to us, when once we are come to a Reſolution abou what relates to the publick peace, and to the reſpect we owe to His Majeſty; we ma have occaſion of conſidering what Laws may be neceſſary towards the facilitating th well-governing of our ſelves and Native Countrey, both as to the regulating our Carriag one towards another, and the ſecuring our Eſtates, from any thing that may be uneaſie from the diſtribution of Juſtice between man and man, as to the improving of our Trad and Commerce abroad, and encouraging Induſtry and Frugality at home; for in all theſe things His Majeſties care will not fail us. And my Lord Commiſſioner amongſt his ma ny other advantages, is ſo well known to be a lover of his Countrey, that we need not fear, but that He will give his Concurrence in what He is allowed ſo freely to conſent to.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

To encourage us to do all we can towards the ſervice and the Honour of our Glorious Monarch, let us conſider Him in all His Perſonal Advantages, whether in what relates to War or Peace, where has the World afforded ſuch another? One whoſe Natural Endowments have been improved by his great experience, at home and abroad, in Armies and Courts, by the greateſt tryals of the moſt differing kinds; thoſe of proſperity and ſucceſs, and of adverſity and oppoſition, of hazards and toyle, and of Authority and Command. *Did ever man ſhow ſo much an Honeſty*, in the ſtricteſt adhering to His Word; ſuch Temperance and Sobriety, ſo indefatigable a diligence in Affairs, ſo Undaunted a Courage upon all occaſions, and ſo unwearied a Clemency towards the moſt obſtinate malicious Offenders? Did ever Heroe compleat the Character ſo fully, in overcoming bravely, and ſhewing gentleneſs to the vanquiſhed? And I muſt ſay, the Triumphs of His Patience are not His obſcureſt Glories; nor is the forgiving of thoſe whoſe virulent Tongues, would have Tainted his Fame, if their malice could have reached it, what is leaſt to be admired in him; what Reputation other Princes have laboured for, at the vaſt extent of Blood and Treaſure, and the putting of a conſtant conſtraint upon themſelves, ſits ſo eaſie upon Him, that what they would have, He forces from the Conſciences of his very Enemies by His Merit, and it coſts Him no more than to be Himſelf But this Theme is not for me, I do Him wrong, and while it may be at this very moment, He is receiving the Acclamations of His good Subjects, in the chief City of our Neighbour Nation, at the great Solemnity of His Coronation there, I am detracting from Him here, by giving him too low a Character.

I ſhall onely add, that He gave to Subjects the greateſt example of Loyalty and Obedience while He was one Himſelf; and now He is an example to all Kings in His Love, His Clemency, and Care towards his People. Let us give Him the return of our Love, our Fidelity, and our Obedience. And ſeeing He takes pleaſure in nothing ſo much, as in our felicity and proſperity, let it be an additional tye upon us to advance His Honour and Greatneſs, by all the endeavours of our Lives, without reſerve, and with our whole Fortunes, which under His protection we may (if we pleaſe) ſo peaceably and comfortably enjoy.

The Parliaments Answer to His Majesties Letter.

May it please your Sacred Majesty.

YOur Majesties gracious and kind remembrance of the Services done by this your ancient Kingdom, to the late King your *Brother* of ever-Glorious Memory, shall rather raise in us ardent desires to exceed whatever we have done formerly than make us consider them as deserving the Esteem your Majesty is pleased to express of them, in your Letter to us dated the 28*th* of *March*. The death of that our excellent Monarch is lamented by us to all the degrees of Grief that are consistent with our great Joy for the Succession of your Sacred Majesty, who has not onely continued, but secured the Happiness which His Wisdom, His Justice, and Clemency procured to us: And having the honour to be the first Parliament which meets by your Royal Authority, of which we are very sensible, your Majesty may be confident that we will offer such Laws as may best secure your Majesties Sacred Person, the Royal Family and Government, and be so exemplarily Loyal, as to raise your Honour and Greatness to the utmost of our power, which we shall ever esteem both our Duty and Interest. Nor shall we leave any thing undone for extirpating all Fanaticism, but especially those Fanatical Murtherers and Assassins, and for detecting and punishing the late Conspirators, whose pernicious and execrable designs did so much tend to subvert your Majesties Government, and ruine us and all your Majesties faithful Subjects. We can assure your Majesty that the Subjects of this your Majesties ancient Kingdom are so desirous to exceed all their Predecessors in extraordinary marks of affection, and Obedience to your Majesty, that (God be praised) the onely way to be Popular with us, is to be eminently Loyal. Your Majesties care of us when you took us to be your special Charge, your Wisdom in extinguishing the seeds of Rebellion and Faction amongst us, your Justice which was so great, as to be for ever exemplary, But above all, your Majesties free and cheerful securing to us our Religion when you were the late King your Royal Brother's Commissioner, now again renewed when you are our Soveraign, are what your Subjects here can never forget. And therefore your Majesty may expect that we will think your Commands sacred as your Person, and that your Inclination will prevent our Debates. Nor did ever any who represented our Monarchs as their Commissioners, (except your Royal Self) meet with greater Respect, or more exact Observance from a Parliament, than the Duke of *Queensberry* (whom your Majesty has so wisely chosen to represent you in this; and of whose eminent Loyalty, and great Abilities in all his former Employments, this Nation hath seen so many proofs) shall find from,

May it please your Sacred Majesty,

Your Majesties most Humble, most Faithful, and most Obedient Subjects and Servants,

In name of the Parliament, Sic Subscribitur, *PERTH* Cancell. *I.P.D.* Parl.

At *Edinburgh* the 28*th* of *April*, 1685.